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GLORIA MOLINA STATEMENT DENOUNCING COMMERCE RECALL MAILER

LOS ANGELES (October 29, 2008)—Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina released the following statement today denouncing a political mailer sent to residents of the City of Commerce and paid for by “Friends of Lilia Leon” and “Friends of Jaime Valencia,” two Commerce City Council candidates:

“I am extremely unhappy that my picture, name, and a quote by me were used without permission in a mailer sent to residents throughout the City of Commerce urging them to support the current recall effort and to elect Lilia Leon and Jaime Valencia to office. This mailer emphasized the two candidates’ opposition to construction of the controversial Vernon Power Plant and highlighted several local elected officials with similar stances on this issue. I was one of those officials.

“I have long been on record against the Vernon Power Plant and remain so. However, this mailer’s true intent was not to garner opposition against this project—which is widespread and warranted throughout the southeast Los Angeles County region. Rather, it was intended to exploit this sentiment so as to generate support for the Commerce recall effort and elect Lilia Leon and Jaime Valencia to the Commerce City Council—none of which I have ever endorsed.

“I take my endorsements seriously and strongly disapprove of the misuse of my likeness, name, and words in these campaign materials. They constitute a serious violation of both the letter and spirit of existing campaign laws. Most disturbingly, they reflect questionable political ethics on the part of Lilia Leon and Jaime Valencia. I insist that they not repeat these mistakes in the future.”

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